REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2006. Claims 1-3, 5-23, 25-38, 40-48, 50-54, 57 and 58 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 21, 27, 34 and 45 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-23, 25-38, 40-48, 50-54, 57 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the "specification does not contain a clear and concise description of the claimed computer-implemented method of validating configuration information specified by a user prior to storing the configuration information in a database such that a skilled technician can make and use the invention" (01/31/2006 Office Action, page 3, first paragraph). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The present specification includes numerous references to the validation of configuration information specified by a user. For example, the present specification states as follows:

> Storing the configuration information in the manner allows for more administrative control and validation. In one embodiment, database stored procedures ... may be used to provide validation to the insertion ... of new configuration information to the configuration database 320. Therefore, in this way database protocols are used to provide ... value validation checks ... automatically. For example, in this way, a section may be defined to be unique within a table, an administrator may determine which contact methods 540 belong to which contact, or provide a stored procedure that will prevent a contact method from existing without first creating a contact, among other examples. Neither configuration method as described in the prior art allows for such administrative, access and validation control.

(Specification, page 15, para [0073])

Thus, the specification contains a clear and concise description of the claimed

computer-implemented method of validating configuration information specified by a user prior to storing the configuration information in a database such that a skilled technician can make and use the invention.

The specification further describes that, in one embodiment, the subset of the configuration information to be extracted is defined using an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites:

> For example, the configuration database 320 may contain configuration information for both business sites A and B. Here, end-users of business site A update only the configuration information for business site A. In addition, end-users of business site B update only the configuration information for business site B. When the configuration generator is executed, it is given an indication as to what business sites to extract configuration information for (e.g., a parameter indicating the extraction of business site A configuration information").

(Specification, page 16, para [0075])

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims comply the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and requests the withdrawal of the §112 rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50, 54, 57 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer, et al., (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0178246, hereinafter "Mayer"), in view of Pellegrinelli, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0010618, hereinafter "Pellegrinelli"). Claims 2, 22, 36 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Brown, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0020750, hereinafter "Brown"). Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Takahashi, et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 5,968,124, hereinafter "Takahashi"). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Patterson, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0052941, hereinafter "Patterson"). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Elliott, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0064149, hereinafter "Elliott"). Claims 19, 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Detlef, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0112021, hereinafter "Detlef"). Claims 41 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer and Pellegrinelli, and further in view of Wolf, et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0178380, hereinafter "Wolf"). Claims 42 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mayer, Pellegrinelli and Wolf, and further in view of Garcia, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,883,170, hereinafter "Garcia").

Applicant does not admit that Mayer, Pellegrinelli, Brown, Patterson, Elliott, Detlef, Wolf and Garcia are prior art and reserves the right to swear behind these references at a later date. Regardless, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Mayer discloses a method for analyzing a network configuration against a corporate network policy and determining violations against the corporate network policy. The analysis is performed using configuration data associated with relevant network devices that is stored in configuration files of these network devices. A network administrator can edit configuration files with his or her proposed data.

Contrary to the presently claimed invention, in Mayer, a network administrator updates configuration files by writing new data directly to the configuration files (Mayer, paragraphs 62 and 90). In the presently claimed invention, in contrast, configuration information to be stored in a database is first validated. Subsequently, at least a subset of the stored configuration information is extracted from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of multiple business sites, and a text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information is generated.

Mayer does not teach or suggest validating configuration information to be stored in a database, and then extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of multiple business sites, and generating a text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information, as does the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner asserts that Mayer teaches extracting a subset of configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter and generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information, and cites the following section of Mayer for such teachings:

> The analysis platform 300 further includes a Network Discovery Wizard Module 320 for collecting data regarding the basic network connectivity (e.g., the network topology). The Network Discovery Wizard Module 320 can guide the network administrator through the process of defining the locations of the configuration files of the network devices in the corporate network that are to be analyzed by the analysis platform 300. The configuration files are typically basic text (ASCII) files such as, a configuration file 325 for a Cisco router using IOS (Internet Operating System) commands, a configuration file 330 for a Nortel switch, and a configuration file 335 for a Checkpoint firewall. Once the locations of the configuration files have been defined, the analysis platform 300 can retrieve the configuration files from the relevant network devices as required.

(Mayer, para [0036])

However, the above section of Mayer merely teaches defining locations of configuration files of network devices in a corporate network, and then retrieving these configuration files from the network devices. Hence, Mayer does not disclose or suggest

extracting a subset of configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of multiple business sites and generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information, as claimed in the present invention.

Pellegrinelli does not help Mayer to render the present invention unpatentable. Pellegrinelli describes a method for distributing performance data associated with a customer from a distribution site to a user site. Pellegrinelli discloses storing configuration information in a database. However, Pellegrinelli does not teach or suggest validating configuration information to be stored in a database, and then generating a text-based configuration file including at least a subset of the configuration information that is extracted from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of multiple business sites. Hence, Pellegrinelli lacks the same features of the present invention that are missing from Mayer. These features are included in the following language of claim 1:

> ... validating configuration information specified by a user;
> storing the configuration information in a database;
> extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites; and
> generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information.

Similar language is included in independent claims 21, 34 and 45. Thus, the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 21, 34 and 45 is patentable over Mayer and Pellegrinelli, taken alone or in combination.

Furthermore, the above features of the present invention are also missing from each of the other references (i.e., Brown, Takahashi, Patterson, Elliott, Detlef, Wolf and Garcia) cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 21, 34 and 45, and their corresponding dependent claims 2,3, 5-20, 22, 23, 25-33, 35-38, 40-44, 46-48, 50-54, 57 and 58. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, applicant respectfully submits that in view of the arguments and amendments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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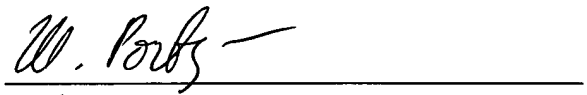

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